

Title 27: LIBRARIES, HISTORY, CULTURE AND ART
Chapter 4: REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

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Maine Revised Statutes
Title 27: LIBRARIES, HISTORY, CULTURE AND ART
Chapter 4: REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

§110. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §24 (AMD).]

1. Appeals board. "Appeals board" means the Maine Library Commission acting, on request from interested citizens, as a board of review for decisions made concerning the State's library plan.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

2. Area reference and resource center. "Area reference and resource center" means a large public, school or academic library designated by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district and of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district that by contract become part of the library district.

[1991, c. 2, §101 (COR) .]

3. Common borrower's card. "Common borrower's card" means a system of personal identification for the purpose of borrowing and returning books and other materials from any library that participates in the regional system.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

4. District consultant. "District consultant" means one who acts as a general library consultant to one or more districts.

[1977, c. 125, §1 (AMD) .]

5. District council. "District council" means an advisory body representing a constituency of participating libraries within a geographical district.

[1981, c. 464, §29 (RPR) .]

6. District plan. "District plan" in entirety means a statement describing the specific purposes for which the district is formed, the means and the agencies by which such purposes are to be accomplished, and an estimate of the funds necessary to their accomplishment; also the public agency which is to receive those funds.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

7. Library district. "Library district" means a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries joined cooperatively to an area reference and resource center and a research center. Local libraries within the district may also be joined cooperatively with other types of libraries.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

8. Local library board. "Local library board" means the body which has the authority to give administrative direction or advice to a library through its librarian.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

9. Media center. "Media center" means any library utilizing print as well as extensive nonprint resources and materials.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

10. Public library. "Public library" means a library freely open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation or group. The above serves the informational, educational and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

11. Regional library system. "Regional library system" means a network of library districts interrelated by formal or informal contract, for the purpose of organizing library resources and services for research, information and recreation to improve statewide library service and to serve collectively the entire population of the State.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

12. Research center. "Research center" means any library designated as such by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §25 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §1 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §29 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §§B24,25 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §101 (COR).

§111. REGIONAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

1. Maine Library Commission. There is created the Maine Library Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 7-E. It consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The library commission must be broadly representative of the State's libraries and consist of a representative from public, school, academic, special, institutional and handicapped libraries, a trustee representative, one representative from each of the library districts as they are formed and 3 representatives from the State at large of whom one must be a representative of the disadvantaged.

The term of each appointed member shall be 5 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, 3 shall be for one year, 3 for 2 years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 3 for 5 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for the full term of 5 years. No members may serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor shall be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, the directors of the area reference and resource centers shall serve as permanent, nonvoting ex officio members of the Maine Library Commission.

The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chair and vice-chair for terms of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation. The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

[1993, c. 349, §57 (AMD) .]

2. Rules. The Maine Library Commission may adopt rules to carry out its responsibilities under this Title. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2009, c. 2, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1983, c. 245, (AMD). 1983, c. 812, §168 (AMD). 1989, c. 503, §B114 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §B26 (AMD). 1993, c. 349, §57 (AMD). 2009, c. 2, §1 (AMD).

§112. -- FUNCTIONS

The library commission shall: [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Appoint the State Librarian. The State Librarian must be qualified through training or experience in library work. The State Librarian shall serve for an indefinite term, subject to removal for cause. The commission shall fix compensation for the State Librarian within salary range 88;

[1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §31 (AMD); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. E, §31 (AMD) .]

2. Policies. Establish the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the district council;

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §27 (AMD) .]

3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the State Librarian regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision; and

[1991, c. 2, §102 (COR) .]

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the State Librarian with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §28 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §§B27,28 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §102 (COR). 1991, c. 528, §E31 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §E31 (AMD).

§113. LIBRARY DISTRICTS

The Maine Library Commission shall divide the State into as many districts as the commission determines are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §29 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B29 (RPR).

§114. DISTRICT COUNCIL

Each library district shall have an advisory council which shall be known as the district council. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

1. Membership. The governing board of each library which has agreed to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. The district council shall elect an executive board composed of 9 members and shall distribute this membership among librarians, trustees and lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its number the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least twice a year.

[1977, c. 125, §3 (RPR) .]

2. Duties. The district council shall:

- A. Serve as an advisory body for the districts. [1981, c. 464, §30 (RPR).]
- B. Develop and evaluate a program of services in the district which will encourage cooperative activity among all types of libraries and media centers; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- C. Provide liaison among the municipalities in the district; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- D. Make recommendations to the Maine Library Commission which would in turn make recommendations to the commissioner regarding programs and services which would help to make libraries and media centers in the district accessible to all; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- E. Assist in the development of a comprehensive district plan; and [1977, c. 125, §4 (AMD).]
- F. Advise on the selection of an area reference and resource center and a research center for the district. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

[1981, c. 464, §30 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §§3,4 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §30 (AMD).

§115. AREA REFERENCE AND RESOURCE CENTERS

Each district shall be affiliated with an area reference and resource center which shall be designated by the Maine Library Commission. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §30 (AMD).]

1. Duties. The area reference and resource center may:

- A. Provide a common borrower's card for member libraries; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- B. Participate with the district consultant in planning and conducting workshops on community-library planning; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- C. Provide office space and support services to the extent able to the district consultant; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan; and [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §31 (AMD).]

E. Such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §31 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §§B30,31 (AMD).

§116. RESEARCH CENTERS

Research centers may be designated by the State Librarian with the advice of the Maine Library Commission. [2013, c. 82, §9 (AMD).]

1. Duties. The research center shall:

A. Provide for advanced research needs; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

B. Act as a back-up collection for the specialized reference needs of the reference and resource centers; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

C. Provide such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 2013, c. 82, §9 (AMD).

§117. DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

The State Librarian, with the advice of the district council, shall appoint a staff member, or contract with an area reference and resource center, to provide district consultant services to one or more districts. [2013, c. 82, §10 (AMD).]

1. Duties. The district consultant shall serve as secretary of the district council and further shall:

A. Serve as a professional consultant to libraries within the district or districts; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

B. Study the needs of the district and make recommendations to the district council; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

C. Coordinate services among libraries of all types; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

D. Provide liaison between the district, other districts and the Maine State Library; [1981, c. 464, §32 (AMD).]

E. Encourage local initiative and commitment to regional cooperative library service; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

F. Work with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service; and [1981, c. 464, §33 (RPR).]

G. Help evolve a district plan of service. [1977, c. 125, §6 (RPR).]

[1981, c. 464, §§31-33 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §§5,6 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §§31-33 (AMD). 2013, c. 82, §10 (AMD).

§118. SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MEDIA CENTER

Any school library or media center in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, which agrees to offer service as a public library, is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the State Librarian. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §32 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B32 (AMD).

§119. DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATIONS

The State Librarian is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems. [2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1977, c. 125, §7 (NEW). 1977, c. 555, §1 (NEW). 1977, c. 564, §100 (RPR). 1977, c. 690, §15 (RPR). 1989, c. 700, §B33 (AMD). 2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).

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